

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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EASLEY ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN WILMINGTON

*HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOBILITY WILL BE IMPROVED ALONG WITH ACCESS TO
WILMINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced the addition of five new highway projects in the Wilmington area to the state's Transportation Improvement Plan. These projects improve safety and mobility throughout the city of Wilmington and improve access to the Wilmington International Airport, an important gateway for the region.

"As a major tourist destination, home to a key military installation as well as the Port of Wilmington and an international airport, the Wilmington area is one of the state's most valuable urban areas," Easley said.

"To ensure continued economic growth for the entire region, we must provide convenient access to every destination in the city," Easley said. "These projects provide a comprehensive vision for greater Wilmington that complements the regional plan I announced for Southeastern North Carolina last month."

The projects were added to the Transportation Improvement Plan based on feedback from local officials and citizens as part of the N.C. Department of Transportation's public involvement process. The TIP is the department's seven-year blueprint for statewide transportation projects, including bicycles, public transportation, rail, aviation and highways. The state Board of Transportation is expected to approve the 2004-2010 TIP at its monthly meeting on Thursday.

The following highway projects were added to the 2004-2010 plan:

Blue Clay Road Interchange with I-140 (Wilmington Bypass)

Build an interchange at Blue Clay Road and the Wilmington Bypass to improve access to the Wilmington International Airport and the newly developing north campus of Cape Fear Community College. This project is scheduled for planning and environmental studies.

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